

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 3 is rewritten in independent form to place claim 3 in condition for allowance. Claim 1 is amended for better clarity. See the specification at, for example, paragraph 0037.

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the August 4, 2005, telephone interview. During the telephone interview, the Examiner suggested that claim 1 be amended to recite "completely removing" to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. As discussed below, claim 1 is amended to recite "completely removing," as the Examiner suggested, to place claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-8 depending from in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the August 22, 2005, Information Disclosure Statement. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the August 22, 2005, Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,721 to Murade ("Murade"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

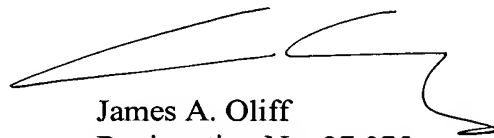
Murade discloses partially removing an oxidized layer 12. See Figs. 3A-3D and col. 11, lines 2-54. As discussed during the August 4 telephone interview, Murade does not disclose or suggest completely removing the oxidized layer 12. Thus, Murade does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-8 depending therefrom.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/jth

Date: November 8, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--